

crisis shall come, no man can doubt the ultimate result, who has narrowly observed the course of either government, in relation to the subject matter of controversy between them. The same rules and principles that govern men, apply also to nations. In fact, nations are but men acting in congregate capacities, and one of the most eminent philosophers who ever lived, has very justly remarked, "that in proportion as danger increases, in the same proportion will be the efforts made either to avert or overcome it."

In view of these great and fundamental principles of human action, and with a sincere desire to secure the most safe and reliable agency in effecting the compromises and adjustments of this question, which can be resorted to, to wit: that of Executive negotiations, your committee do not hesitate to recommend a termination of the convention made in 1827, between the United States and Great Britain, in relation to the joint occupancy of the Oregon Territory. Believing as they do, that until that convention is abrogated, no practical or efficient steps will be taken by either nation to bring to a close the matter in dispute between them.

Your committee desire not to be understood as recommending any measures which may lead to hasty or precipitate action on the part of the Congress of the United States.

The mode in which, and the time when, the notice to terminate should be given, they willingly submit to the more enlightened action of the representatives of the people in the councils of the nation; but they cannot otherwise, than express their conviction that the notice to terminate the convention, should be accompanied with the most emphatic declarations on the part of the United States of their sincere desire to preserve peace, and to avoid all just cause of quarrel between the two nations. In this event the question of peace or war will depend, not so much on the abrogation of the convention, as on the measures which may be subsequently adopted by the United States or Great Britain with a view to take and maintain possession of the whole territory, to the entire exclusion of the other. Your committee cannot suppose that such rash and inconsiderate action can, with any degree of reason, be anticipated from either party; and they have not therefore, thought it necessary to bestow much reflection upon the happening of an event, which they consider as altogether unlikely to occur.

With reference to the suggestions contained in the message of the Governor, and the propositions more recently made by the British government of submitting the whole matter to the arbitration of some friendly Power, your committee are of opinion, that however advisable and proper such a settlement of the question, might be deemed under other circumstances, the time has not yet arrived, when the United States would be justifiable in surrendering into the hands of other Powers, the control and management of a question of so much importance to them, and so deeply affecting their political destinations. In the judgment of your committee the whole power of negotiation should be exhausted, be-